



June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and messages of kindness and encouragement as we enter the final weeks of a uniquely challenging academic year.

I wrote to you recently outlining our plans for the return of our year 10 and year 12 students following recent government announcements and I am delighted to inform you that 'phase one' of our planning has gone exactly as expected. This has enabled us to begin our reconnection conversations and it has been a sheer joy to be able to see and speak with our students and their families after such a long period of time away from the Academy.

Our Year 12 students have been busy interacting with their teachers and the Academy and Mrs Hamilton Smith has been working hard to ensure that the provision and support on offer for all Year 12 students is both safe and purposeful. I know that she has already been communicating extensively with our Year 12 students and their families and has provided comprehensive plans as to how Year 12 provision will look and feel over the coming weeks.

Therefore, the contents of this communication will very much focus on outlining our plans for Year 10 provision from the 15th of June and beyond.

Due to the success of our phase one planning, I am now able to share our intentions to activate phase two of our planning process which introduces our blended approach to learning for all Year 10 and Year 12 students from the week beginning 22nd June 2020.

Our blended learning approach involves both face to face delivery by an Academy teacher as well as access to online 'live lessons' via Microsoft TEAMS. These lessons will be scheduled by each of your child's class teachers and will take place predominantly in the afternoons across the week.

All online 'live lessons' will be delivered via Microsoft TEAMS and your child will be issued with the guidance and training material they need following their one to one appointment this week.

Thank you for completing the parental consent form to allow your child to access online lessons as well as virtual one to one mentor meetings should these be required. If you are yet to read our Virtual Learning Information document and give your consent, please see previous email correspondence from Mr Athey where these documents can be found.

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You will receive a copy of your child's timetable on Thursday 18th June via email and it would be helpful if you could discuss the entry and exit points designated prior to arrival so that they are clear as to how they can contribute to effective social distancing whilst at the Academy.

Our blended learning approach uses each Monday of the remaining weeks we have left prior to the summer break to provide further support for individual students and potential small group face to face or live lesson delivery for identified students offering additional pastoral care or academic support.

Tuesday through to Friday has been planned to ensure that every student in Year 10 has the opportunity to attend a morning of 'core' delivery (English, Maths and Science) and an afternoon of 'Live online options' in the afternoon. As students undertake 4 option subjects, we anticipate that all students will receive one 'live option lesson' per afternoon across each of the 4 days of timetabled provision for that week.

We are currently unable to record our face to face lessons for those students who are unable to attend their allocated session. Students who are unable to attend will be provided with core learning via Microsoft TEAMS or One Note and will receive instructions as to how to access the resources directly from their subject teacher.

To help students access live lessons easily and quickly, students will receive a range of video guide links on how to join online lessons via their Academy email. These guides will also be available on the school website in the Remote Learning section accessed from the homepage.

Once joined, students will not be able to access their camera but will be able to interact with the teacher via audio should this be appropriate. There is also a chat facility on TEAMS to provide students with an opportunity to ask questions as the lesson unfolds.

You will also notice from the published timetable that students are still expected to engage in online learning. This will be critical in ensuring that learning of any new knowledge or content that is delivered is reinforced and extended through follow up activity that will be set by the teacher. It is key that students remain responsible and independent when working at home as each face to face session has been carefully planned to build progressively through the remainder of the term to ensure that students are able to develop their understanding of key knowledge throughout the final weeks of the year.

As always, if there are any questions or queries regarding the published timetable for your child then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Athey (Head of Year 10) at your earliest convenience.

To ensure that our staff and students always remain safe, students will return to our Academy and be enclosed in one of 4 'bubbles' which will contain no more than 14 students who will be housed in our larger learning spaces and not classrooms. Each 'bubble' has been constructed carefully, taking friendships into consideration to support our students with potential anxiety about returning alongside supporting staff to deliver high quality and purposeful learning. Please note that we are unable to make any alterations to the group your child has been allocated.

As part of our strategy, students will be provided with their own entrance and exit as part of our 'bubble' strategy and will remain in the same learning space for all learning. Each 'bubble' will also be provided with their own outside space to enjoy a social distanced break time of 15 minutes as part of their morning provision.

To maintain a safe and secure environment, students are expected to bring their own equipment into the Academy including their own pencil case. The Academy will provide each student with their own personal exercise book that will be used for all face to face activity and should be used to record their learning from all three core lessons. Further information relating to lunch, equipment and uniform can be found in our 'Question and Answer' video that was released on Friday. However, as always, if you have a question prior to returning to the Academy then please contact us via email at your earliest convenience.

You will notice that our timetable operates on an AM and PM basis. Morning sessions will conclude at 12.00pm and students are expected to return home either via foot, bicycle, or other transport.

Those students using Academy affiliated transport will be able to continue to use the services provided and will be available to transport students to and from the Academy. Buses are scheduled to arrive at the Academy by 8.30am and will be departing the Academy at 12.15pm Tuesday through Friday.

Please ensure that your child is fully aware of the expectations of 'live lessons' as outlined in our 'Virtual learning policy' that was sent previously. We expect all of our students to maintain our GREAT values whilst taking part in 'live' lessons; any inappropriate behaviour or misuse of the platform will lead to further sanction and could result in the removal of students from further online 'live lessons'

I cannot overstate enough how excited we all are to welcome our students back into the Academy. We have held 4 days of 'Critical Health and Safety Training' this week with our entire staff body and it was wonderful to be able to reconnect with such dedicated and

committed colleagues who have been working tremendously hard to support and care for your children over the past 12 weeks and I want to pay tribute to the way in which they have responded to this crisis. We have all missed your children desperately and we are hugely excited for the weeks ahead.

I hope your children are too.

Thank you once again for your continued support and constant messages of kindness and gratitude and please know that it goes a long way and means a lot to us all.

I hope that the information outlined above is both clear and informative but as always, if you have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

As always, stay safe and I hope that you and your families are well and healthy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Seymour', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Seymour
(Headteacher)

